

SENT series
Week 9 outline
7.17.22
Acts 26

HOW A MESSAGE BECAME A MOVEMENT A Hope, A Witness, and a Prayer

Summary: From Jerusalem Towards Rome (ch21-25)

- A. Paul attacked
 - by Jewish people upset, believing he's betrayed Israel
- B. Paul attracts attention
 - from Roman soldiers who think he's a terrorist from Egypt starting a riot
- C. Paul arrested and put on trial
 - 1. Jewish Crowd in Jerusalem (ch22)
 - 2. Sanhedrin (ch23)
 - 3. Gov. Felix (ch24)
 - 4. Gov. Festus (ch25)
 - 5. King Agrippa (ch 26)

I. A Reason for Hope (26:1-8)

- A. The Defense- Vs 2
 - "defense": apologia... Paul begins his 5th "apologist defense"
- B. The Hope -Vs 6
 - "because of my hope"... Paul's "hope" was a faith-filled trust in the promise of God
- C. The Resurrection -Vs 8
 - "God raises the dead" ... central to Paul's apologetics was the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
 - 1. If so... then Paul isn't teaching lies, he's preaching truth
 - 2. If so... then Jesus isn't a sect leader, he's King, Messiah, and Lord
 - 3. If so... then eternal life can only be found in Him

IF THE RESURRECTION REALLY HAPPENED, IT CHANGES EVERYTHING
WHAT AM I PLACING MY HOPE IN?

II. A Story Worth Telling (vs9-23)

Why does Paul continue to re-tell his testimony?

A. Because It Centers His Conversation in Christ

- 1. I was "Convinced" and "Obsessed" (vs 9-11)
 - "convinced"* I should oppose Jesus
 - "obsessed"* with persecuting Christians

2. But Jesus showed up, spoke up, and called up (vs 12-15)
 - I "saw" vs 13
 - I "heard" vs 14
 - I was "appointed" vs 16
3. And Now I have been Sent
 - as a "Servant"
 - as a "Witness"

B. Because It brings Clarity to the Gospel (vs 16-18)

1. To **Open**
 - open their eyes
2. To **Turn**
 - from darkness to light
 - from Satan to God
3. So they may **Receive**
 - forgiveness of sins
 - a place among those sanctified by faith in Jesus

C. Because It Creates Opportunities for Others to Respond (vs19-20)

1. *"Repent and turn to God"*
2. *"Demonstrate that repentance by your deeds"*

D. Because It Glorifies God over Sin (vs21-22)

1. *"But God has helped me to this very day..."*
2. *"I testify to small and great alike"*
3. *"A message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles"*

WHERE AM I "KICKING AGAINST THE GOADS"
AND HOW DOES JESUS WANT TO USE IT IN THE STORY HE'S WRITING?

III. A Prayer Worth Praying (vs 28-29)

- A. *"Do you think in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"*
- B. *"Short tie or long- I Pray to God..."*

WHO ARE THE FRIENDS, RELATIVES, ACQUAINTANCES, NEIGHBORS, AND CO-WORKERS I CAN BEGIN PRAYING WOULD COME TO JESUS, GROW IN JESUS AND GO WITH JESUS?